

CLAIMS:

1. A strap tensioning apparatus for releasably engaging and rotating a strap tensioning ratchet hub having a transverse bore wherein, the tensioning apparatus comprises:
 - a collar unit including a cylindrical collar member provided with a peripheral aperture that is dimensioned for alignment with one end of the transverse bore of the ratchet hub;
 - securing means for connecting the collar member to said ratchet hub;
 - and,
 - a handle unit including a handle member connected to said collar member and adapted to provide rotary motion to said collar member.
2. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, said securing means comprises at least in part a post mounted for reciprocal movement relative to the aperture in the collar member and dimensioned to extend into a portion of the transverse bore of the ratchet hub.
3. The apparatus as in claim 2; wherein, the securing means further includes a lever arm pivotally connected to the collar member wherein, one segment of the lever arm is provided with said post.
4. The apparatus as in claim 3; wherein, the lever arm has a generally L-shaped configuration that includes a lower segment and an upper segment.
5. The apparatus as in claim 4; wherein, said post depends downwardly from the lower segment of the lever member.
6. The apparatus as in claim 5 wherein, the spring element is attached to the upper segment of the lever arm.